

# CORONAVIRUS SCAM ALERT

The Beaver Police Department has been working with financial institutions around the region regarding recent scams surrounding the current COVID-19 situation. Fraudsters are looking for any situation to exploit our fears.

The Police Department has listed some of the most trending scams that are hitting the region at this time in an attempt to educate you on what to be aware of and look out for.

## Coronavirus Opens Doors to Scams

Fraudsters are exploiting the global thirst for knowledge about the virus by launching Coronavirus-themed phishing attacks to spread credential stealing malware. The emails, which contain an infected attachment or a link to a malicious website, are made to appear like they come from the CDC or the WHO. The WHO posted an article on its website warning users of this scam.

Fraudsters have also exploited Johns Hopkins University's interactive Coronavirus dashboard containing an interactive map that tracks Coronavirus statistics by region. Cybersecurity firms have identified several fake Coronavirus interactive maps that infect user devices with credential-stealing malware. Fraudsters are circulating links to these malicious websites containing Coronavirus maps through social media and phishing emails.

There are known cybercrime forums that have started selling infection kits that exploits John Hopkins University's interactive Coronavirus dashboard as part of a Java-based malware deployment scheme.

### **There have also been reports of other Coronavirus-themed phishing campaigns aiming to spread malware, including:**

- Coronavirus advice-themed phishing emails purporting to provide advice on how to protect against the virus. The emails might claim to be from medical experts near Wuhan, China where the Coronavirus started.
- Workplace policy-themed phishing emails about Coronavirus targeting an organization's employees. For example, the emails may purport to come from the organization's HR department alerting employees of a new pandemic policy.

The Beaver Police Department wants you to be educated with the scams that are trending in this current climate. Please Do Not fall victim! In the event that the government releases money to households nationwide there are a few tips to be mindful of.

Law enforcement is aware of these scams. Please pass along this information to family, friends, and especially the elderly community in an event to prevent anyone from falling victim.